

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 001984

SIPDIS

AIDAC

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

STATE FOR A/S PRM DEWEY, IO A/S HOLMES, IO/EDA WINNICK, E  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ROME 01984 01 OF 03 081328Z

FOR CPENCE

SECSTATE PASS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN, MCHAMBLISS, RTILSWORTH AND TWEDT  
USAID FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, AA/DCHA WINTER, AA/EGAT  
ESIMMONS, D/DCHA/OFDA BMCCONNELL, D/DCHA/FFP LANDIS AND  
WWHELEN  
USUN FOR MLUTZ  
USAID DAKAR FOR ESTES  
GENEVA FOR RMA  
BRUSSELS FOR USEU  
NSC FOR JDWORKEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [KUNR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [KUNR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [KUNR](#) [UN](#) [WFP](#) [EAID](#) [UN](#) [WFP](#) [EAID](#) [UN](#) [WFP](#)  
SUBJECT: U.S. DOLLAR 480,000 PROPOSAL FOR LINKING FAO/WFP  
JOINT CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENTS WITH THE SUB-SAHARAN  
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CILSS AND SADC - REQUEST FOR USAID  
FUNDING

REF: (A) ROME 1511

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SUMMARY  
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11. U.S. MISSION RECEIVED AN UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL VALUED AT  
U.S. DOLLAR 480,000 AIMED AT MORE TIGHTLY LINKING FAO/WFP  
JOINT CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENTS WITH THE SUB-SAHARAN  
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CILSS AND SADC. US MISSION STRONGLY  
ENDORSES THIS OUTREACH BY FAO AND WFP TO STRENGTHEN UN  
LINKAGES WITH TWO IMPORTANT SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN REGIONAL  
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PAGE 03 ROME 01984 01 OF 03 081328Z  
ORGANIZATIONS THAT THE U.S. THROUGH USAID HAS LONG  
SUPPORTED. WE BELIEVE THAT A RELATIVELY MODEST USAID  
INVESTMENT WOULD PUSH UN EMERGENCY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS IN THE  
DIRECTION OF TRULY BECOMING CONSENSUS  
BUILDING PROCESSES, AND BETTER ENSURING THAT ASSESSMENT  
RESULTS ARE FULLY CREDIBLE AND ACTIONABLE.

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TEXT OF PROPOSAL LETTER RECEIVED FROM FAO-WFP RELATED TO  
ENHANCED UN LINKAGES TO SUB-SAHARAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
FOR CONDUCTING CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENTS  
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12. BEGIN TEXT OF FAO-WFP LETTER TO US MISSION. "DEAR MR.  
LAVELLE:

AS YOU KNOW, THE FAO AND WFP FREQUENTLY ORGANIZE JOINT CFSAs  
(CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENT) MISSIONS TO CARRY OUT  
RAPID OVERALL ASSESSMENTS OF THE FOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND  
SITUATION IN COUNTRIES IN A STATE OF CRISIS. THESE MISSIONS  
RELY TO A GREAT EXTENT UPON SECONDARY DATA AND LOCAL  
EXPERTISE; REPRESENTATIVES FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OR  
DONOR AGENCIES ARE ALSO INVOLVED, ALTHOUGH THE ULTIMATE  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSESSMENT RESTS WITH THE UNITED  
NATIONS. WE EXPECT TO DO SIX SUCH MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA IN APRIL/MAY OF THIS YEAR, AND WILL DO OVER TWENTY IN  
THE COURSE OF 2003, INCLUDING SOME TO SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, THE  
KOREA DPR AND AFGHANISTAN.

DONOR AGENCIES RELY ON VARIOUS INFORMATION SOURCES TO MAKE  
DECISIONS ON FOOD AID AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES, BUT  
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PAGE 04 ROME 01984 01 OF 03 081328Z  
THE FAO/WFP ASSESSMENTS USUALLY FIGURE PROMINENTLY,  
PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THEIR RECOGNIZED INDEPENDENCE AND  
UNBIASED JUDGMENT. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A CLEAR SENSE  
AMONG ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING WITHIN FAO AND WFP, THAT THE  
CFSAS MUST BECOME MORE PRECISE AND RELIABLE. THIS IS DUE  
PARTLY TO THE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX NATURE OF MANY  
EMERGENCIES, AND TO THE RECOGNITION THAT THESE ASSESSMENTS  
OUGHT TO BE MORE COMPREHENSIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, BY USING MORE  
SYSTEMATICALLY NATIONAL FOOD BALANCE RATHER THAN CEREAL  
BALANCE SHEETS.

THE RELEVANT SERVICES AT FAO AND WFP HAVE ALREADY TAKEN A  
NUMBER OF STEPS TO IMPROVE THEIR RESPECTIVE CFSAs  
METHODOLOGIES AND THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH THEY UNDERTAKE  
THESE JOINT MISSIONS. FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE:

- DEFINED THE COMMON PURPOSE OF CFSAS AND THE SPECIFIC  
OBJECTIVES OF BOTH PARTIES;
- IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES TO BE REFINED,  
BOTH ON THE FAO AND WFP SIDES (E.G. ESTIMATES OF COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS TO FILL A DOMESTIC FOOD SUPPLY GAP, MORE  
COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL FOOD BALANCE ANALYSES,  
DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN CHRONIC AND TRANSITORY FOOD

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PAGE 01 ROME 01984 02 OF 03 081328Z  
ACTION AID-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AGRE-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	INL-00
	USNW-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	EAP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	VCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00	OIC-02	PER-00
	IRM-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	ECA-00	PRM-00	DRL-01	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/003W					

-----61DDCO 081329Z /38

P 081328Z MAY 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9748  
INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
USEU BRUSSELS 3216  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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FUNDING

INSECURITY, SCOPE FOR MARKET-BASED SOLUTIONS);  
- IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC PROCESS ISSUES TO BE IMPROVED: FOR  
INSTANCE, PREPARING FOR COUNTRY MISSIONS, TRAINING/BRIEFING  
FAO AND WFP TEAM MEMBERS, WORKING WITH LOCAL PARTNERS  
(GOVERNMENTS, DONOR AGENCIES, NGOS), COUNTRY BRIEFINGS,  
RESOLVING DIFFERENCES AND PREPARING FINAL REPORT;  
- UNDERTAKEN PRE-CFSA VISITS TO NINE COUNTRIES IN SOUTHERN  
AFRICA IN 2003 TO COLLECT INFORMATION, ESTABLISH OR RENEW  
TIES WITH LOCAL PARTNERS, AND GATHER INPUT ON HOW THE CFSA  
PROCESS IS PERCEIVED BY ALL PARTIES AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL.

IN ADDITION TO WHAT WE ARE UNDERTAKING WITHIN FAO AND WFP  
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PAGE 03 ROME 01984 02 OF 03 081328Z

-- AND BETWEEN THE TWO INSTITUTIONS -- WE PROPOSE TO  
ORGANIZE AND MANAGE A WIDER EXPERT CONSULTATION PROCESS, TO  
TAKE PLACE OVER A PERIOD OF UP TO ONE YEAR AND A HALF. THIS  
WOULD INCLUDE SPECIALISTS FROM FAO, WFP, DONOR AGENCIES,  
SPECIALISTS FROM REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (FROM THE SOUTHERN  
AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) OR THE (CILSS) THE SAHEL  
PERMANENT INTER-STATE ANTI-DROUGHT COMMISSION) AND  
INDEPENDENT EXPERTS. THE EXPERT CONSULTATION WOULD DRAW UPON  
INTERNAL RESOURCES AT FAO AND WFP, WOULD BE MANAGED JOINTLY  
BY THESE TWO INSTITUTIONS (WITH SEPARATE AND CLEARLY DEFINED  
SCOPES AND BUDGETS), AND WOULD REQUIRE SEVERAL WORKING  
MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS. THIS EXPERT CONSULTATION COULD INCLUDE,  
AMONG OTHER THINGS:

- SEVERAL SHORT COMMISSIONED PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS;

- COLLABORATION BETWEEN SEVERAL FAO SERVICES AND CILSS TO  
FINALIZE ONGOING WORK TO MOVE FROM CEREAL BALANCE TO FOOD  
BALANCE SHEETS FOR SELECTED COUNTRIES IN THE CILSS REGION.  
THE PRECISE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE WORK NEED TO BE  
DETERMINED THROUGH DISCUSSIONS THE CILSS;

- COLLABORATION BETWEEN SEVERAL FAO SERVICES AND SADC ON THE  
INTEGRATION OF EARLY WARNING INFORMATION INTO THE FAO'S  
CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF THE FOOD SITUATION AT THE COUNTRY

LEVEL, AND INTO THE FAO/WFP JOINT CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENTS. HERE TOO, THE PRECISE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE WORK NEED TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SADC;

- IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL PARTIES ON ALL ELEMENTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 01984 02 OF 03 081328Z  
THE PROCESS: PREPARATION AND BRIEFING OF TEAMS, IN-COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS, PARTICIPATION, IN-COUNTRY BRIEFING, FINALIZING THE CONCLUSIONS AND REPORT.  
AMONG SPECIFIC OUTPUTS, OR TANGIBLE RESULTS, FROM THIS EXPERT CONSULTATION, WE ENVISAGE THE FOLLOWING:

- UPDATED VERSIONS OF THE CURRENT FAO AND WFP METHODOLOGIES ON JOINT CFSAS;

- A COMMON HANDBOOK FOR FAO/WFP TEAMS (AND PARTNERS) ON PRACTICAL STEPS TO JOINT CFSAS. THIS HANDBOOK WOULD REFER TO, BUT BE MUCH MORE CONCISE, THAN THE RESPECTIVE METHODOLOGIES, AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THREE LANGUAGES (ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH, MOST LIKELY);

- THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF MORE COMPREHENSIVE FOOD BALANCE SHEETS FOR SELECTED CILSS COUNTRIES;

- CLARIFICATION OF RESPECTIVE ROLES, AND SPECIFIC COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH SADC'S EARLY WARNING UNIT ON CFSAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA;

- TRAINING OF A FIRST GROUP OF 20 PERSONS IN THE USE OF THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 01984 03 OF 03 081328Z  
ACTION AID-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AGRE-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	INL-00
	USNW-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	EAP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	L-00	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00	OIC-02
	IRM-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	PRM-00	DRL-01	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	/004W						

-----61DDC8 081328Z /38

P 081328Z MAY 03  
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INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
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NEW CFSA GUIDELINES AND HANDBOOK.

IN ADDITION, WE ENVISAGE THAT THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CFSA PROCESS, AND THE TESTING OF NEW MATERIAL WOULD TAKE PLACE UNDER 'REAL LIFE' CONDITIONS, WITH RESULTS BEING COMPILED IN A SPECIAL REPORT GATHERING COMMISSIONED PAPERS, PROCEEDINGS FROM WORKSHOPS, UPDATED METHODOLOGY AND CFSA HANDBOOK.

AT THIS TIME, WE ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSALS TO USAID AND TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, BECAUSE OF THEIR MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO, AND INTEREST IN, ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO FOOD

SECURITY EMERGENCIES. OUR FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF THIS  
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PAGE 03 ROME 01984 03 OF 03 081328Z  
EXPERT CONSULTATION OVER UP TO ONE YEAR AND-A-HALF IS  
SLIGHTLY OVER U.S. DOLLARS OR EUROS 480,000, INCLUDING ALL  
MEETINGS, COMMISSIONED PAPERS, TRANSLATIONS, TRAINING  
WORKSHOPS, ETC.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS EXPERT CONSULTATION WOULD BE A VERY  
EFFICIENT, PARTICIPATORY AND TRANSPARENT WAY TO IMPROVE A  
KEY COMPONENT OF DECISION MAKING THROUGH WHICH VERY LARGE  
FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS ARE MADE, TO ASSIST NEEDY POPULATIONS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU; PLEASE LET US KNOW IF  
YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. BEST REGARDS, HENRI P. JOSSEAND,  
CHIEF, GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SERVICE, FAO-  
ROME (SIGNED) AND WOLFGANG HERBINGER, CHIEF, EMERGENCY NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT, WFP-ROME (SIGNED)." END TEXT OF APRIL 29, 2003  
FAO-WFP LETTER TO US MISSION.

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COMMENT  
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14. US MISSION STRONGLY ENDORSES THIS OUTREACH BY FAO AND WFP  
TO STRENGTHEN UN LINKAGES WITH TWO IMPORTANT SUB-SAHARAN  
AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT THE U.S. THROUGH USAID  
HAS LONG SUPPORTED. (WE NOTE THE MAY 7 ISSUANCE BY SADC OF A  
LANDMARK STUDY ENTITLED: "TOWARDS IDENTIFYING IMPACTS OF  
HIV/AIDS ON FOOD INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND  
IMPLICATIONS FOR RESPONSE - FINDINGS FROM MALAWI, ZAMBIA AND  
ZIMBABWE.") WE BELIEVE THAT A RELATIVELY MODEST USAID  
INVESTMENT OF U.S. DOLLARS 480,000 WILL PUSH UN EMERGENCY  
NEEDS ASSESSMENTS IN THE DIRECTION OF TRULY BECOMING  
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PAGE 04 ROME 01984 03 OF 03 081328Z  
CONSENSUS BUILDING PROCESSES, AND BETTER ENSURING THAT  
ASSESSMENT RESULTS ARE FULLY CREDIBLE AND ACTIONABLE. HALL

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